

A N
A N S W E R
T O
Miss *Blandy's* NARRATIVE.

I N W H I C H
All the Arguments she has ad-
vanc'd, in Justification of her
Innocence, are fully refuted.

A N D
Her Guilt clearly and undeniably
prov'd.

L O N D O N :

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(Price Three-Pence.)

March 27

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A N S W E R

Miss Black's Narrative



All the copies of this
work are in the possession of the
Innocentia de fully returned.

Mr. Galt's copy and manuscript

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A N
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T O
Miss *Blandy's* NARRATIVE.

Madam,

BEFORE I read your NARRATIVE, I was in Hopes, I might find something therein, which would lessen the strong Conviction I had of your being guilty of your Father's Death ; but am now sorry to tell you, that the Weakness of your Defence has confirm'd, instead of lessening that Conviction.

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Permit

Permit me to endeavour to shew you, that you have not given an Answer to any one material Article, and that whatever you have said does not contain even the slightest Proof of your Innocence.

As to what you say concerning the Powders, which you imagin'd would make your Father love you, it is so very Childish, that it would be almost an Absurdity to give an Answer to it. No Person of common Sense, can possibly be so impos'd upon as you would have it believ'd you were by Mr. *Cranston* in that Circumstance. Besides, you own yourself, that you told Mr. *Cranston*, you fear'd those Powders would injure your Father's Health. 'Tis therefore an unaccountable Thing, that you should be so easily

ly

ly persuaded to administer them to him.

“ But,” say you, “ I could have
 “ no Reason to believe Mr. *Cran-*
 “ *ston* would attempt my Fa-
 “ ther’s Life ; for I had often told
 “ him, *I* knew my Father was not
 “ rich, and that his Living was ne-
 “ cessary to our Welfare.”

Madam, this is utterly incredible. In the first Place, it is well known, that, though Mr. *Blandy* was a very Honest and worthy Gentleman, his great Foible was Vanity, and that he gave himself out to be worth ten Thousand Pounds. How then could you imagine, he was not rich ? ’Tis not very probable, that he ever told you his Circumstances. Had he done so, you would doubtless have

mention'd it in your NARRATIVE. Besides, if it were really true, that you told Mr. *Cranston*, your Father was not rich, and that his living was necessary to *yours*, and *his* Welfare, how came Mr. *Cranston* to attempt to take him off? Could he possibly suppose, he knew your Father's Circumstances better than *you* knew them? *I* would willingly be inform'd too why, if you did not think your Father rich, you should tell Mr. *Cranston*, that your Father, if he liv'd, would provide for him, and you, and the Children that you might have. How could you suppose that your Father, after having had good Business for between thirty and forty Years, without having laid up a Fortune, tho' he had but one Child, could, when he was grown old, and could not
 expect

expect to live a great Number of Years, lay up a Fortune for a larger Family ?

There being nothing then but your bare Word against so many strong Circumstances, in Relation to the Effect of this Powder (to say nothing of all the Speeches which the Witnesses swore had escap'd you concerning the same Powder) you will hardly find Credit with any reasonable Person.

You would willingly have it believed, that you yourself first told the Doctors, of your having administer'd these Powders to your Father, before they had heard of it from others. But the Truth is, that you well knew the Doctors were already appriz'd of it, and that every

Body *then* suspected you of having poison'd your Father.

You say in your NARRATIVE, *Much is now said of my trying to bribe the Servants. How contrary to Truth !* As if this Exclamation of *How contrary to Truth !* were a full Refutation of what *Robert Harman*, your Servant, positively swore, *viz.* That you offered him the Value of five hundred Pounds to go away with you. You tell us, you would with Pleasure have resign'd yourself up at the Assizes ; but for this we have only your bare Assertion.

I did not imagine, say you, at that Time, that *I had such Enemies*, or that human Nature could be so wicked and abandon'd. But I would

would willingly know how you could imagine yourself safe, when you well knew that you were suspected of the Murder of your Father.

You tell us likewise, that you had two Horses in your Stable, had you intended to escape. 'Tis true, you *had* two Horses ; but, as your Man had refused to go off with you, 'twould have been Madness indeed, to have gone and saddled one of those Horses yourself, and to have rode off alone. This would have shewn the World your guilty Conscience with a Vengeance !

You urge the Unfitness of your Dress, to make make your Escape in, the Morning after your Father's Death, and mention your walking

as

as slow as Foot can fall when you went out of Town. Madam, your whole Manner of acting in Relation to your leaving your House, is a very strong Presumption of your Guilt. What, but a troubled Conscience could prompt you to so strange and indecent an Action, as the walking out of Town alone in a high Road, while your Father lay dead? If, as you say, you could not bear the House while his Body was opening, why did you not walk in your Garden, or retire to your Friend, Mrs. *Mountenay's*, either of which would certainly have been a much more proper Place? I am very willing to believe, you had form'd no regular Design of making your Escape. But I think, 'tis pretty plain, your Imagination was so confus'd with Guilt, you knew

knew not what you did. As to your walking so very slowly, it was owing, in all Probability, to the Mob's furrounding you.

If what you say be true, that the Noise at your Trial was so great, that, when any Evidence was given, the Jury could not hear it, how came those People to hear, who took Notes, and who (without Doubt) were at a greater Distance from the Witnesses than the Jury were? I suppose, you'll hardly say, they have publish'd any Evidence, that was not really given in the Court.

You complain next of the Jury's not withdrawing, in order to agree
upon

upon their Verdict. But in Reality, there can be no stronger *presumptive* Proof of your Guilt, than their judging it to be so very clear.

In the Conclusion of your NARRATIVE, you urge the seeming Coolness and Unconcernedness of your Behaviour, as a Presumption of your Innocence. But, Madam, the outward Behaviour of those who are suspected of Crimes (unless it be in the first Moments of their being appriz'd of the Suspicions entertain'd of them) depends almost entirely upon Constitution, not upon their real Innocence or Guilt. This is an Observation, that all Experience will justify. No Man ever behav'd more composedly
than

than did Captain *Goodyer*, both during his Confinement, and even at the Hour of Death. Nay, he persisted in his Innocence to the very last Moment. Yet there is not the least Doubt to be made of his having been guilty of his Brother's Murder. This is a very common Artifice with Criminals, and no Sort of Regard is to be had to it.

I have now gone through your whole Defence, and have shewn the Weakness of every Article of it.

But how comes it about, that you have made no Answer to any one material Circumstance of all
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the Evidence that was given against you? This you have carefully avoided.

Not to mention all the very strong Circumstances, which your Servants swore to, the Speech that you made in the Hearing of Mr. and Mrs. Lane, and what you said to Mr. Fisher, sufficiently prove your Guilt. *Oh! that damn'd Villain Cranston!* said you, in the Presence of the former, *My Honour to him has been my Ruin.* Then, after a short Pause, *But why do I blame him? I am more to blame; It was I administer'd it, and I knew the Consequence.*

When you ask'd Mr. Fisher what could be done for you, and he
made

made Answer, That if you could produce any Thing that would fix the Guilt upon Mr. *Cranston*, you might possibly be saved, *I am afraid*, said you, *I have destroyed that which would have hang'd that Villain*. By this it is plain, his Letters had appriz'd you of the Nature of those Powders you gave your Father. Your own Letter to *him* likewise, which was produc'd in Court, can be interpreted in no other Sense.

Thus, Madam, it appears beyond a Possibility of any reasonable Contradiction, that you are guilty of the Murder of your Father ; and what highly aggravates your Guilt and makes it of a
much

much blacker and deeper Dye than that of the unhappy Criminal condemned at *Chelmsford*, is (as has been observed by others) that you had a virtuous Education, and a tender and affectionate Father.

With what Confidence then can you hope for that *Royal Clemency and Compassion* You implore ?

'Twould be a strange Prostitution of Clemency, to pardon one, who is guilty of so unnatural a Crime upon so little Provocation as you can plead. So unparallell'd a Precedent would very justly raise a Clamour throughout the Nation, and afford good Reason to believe the *Royal Ear* had been abused.

No,

No, think rather of reconciling yourself to Heaven, and by a sincere Penitence, not only for the Murder of your Father, but for having likewise endeavour'd to propagate a false Belief of your innocence, strive to obtain that everlasting and all-availing Pardon, which it is not in the Power of Man to bestow.

F I N I S.

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T. T. M.

